

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 1733

#17/B

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 305334

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Gridley et al.

Application No. 09/491,661

Filed: January 27, 2000

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
PREPARING TIRE TREAD FOR A  
RETREAD TIRE

Art Unit: 1733

Examiner: J. Fischer

OFFICIAL

FAX RECEIVED  
DEC 20 2002  
GROUP 1700

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents  
Box AF  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 19, 2002, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the indicated claims with:

- B1
- SUB CL
14. (Twice Amended) A method of cutting a length of tire tread for a retread tire having a tire casing, the method comprising:
- measuring a circumference of a tire casing wherein a cushion gum may be present;
  - automatically communicating, electronically, the circumference of the tire casing to a tire tread dispenser;